10th January 1950]

SRI M. NARAYANA RAO :—" Have rural problems got any priority with the Government? Do the Government feel that rural roads demand higher priority than roads in urban areas? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Rural problems are certainly being given all the attention that they should have, but rural problems do not mean only rural roads."

SRI M. NARAYANA RAO :—" Have the Government any comprehensive scheme of rural development including rural roads? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" As I have said, we have already framed a comprehensive programme which will serve a wider area and we hope to carry it through."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Do not the Government think roads are necessary for the agriculturists to carry their produce to the nearest market? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" There is no doubt about it."

Alleged irregularities in the election to the Madras Medical Council.

* 98 *Q.*—DR. P. S. SRINIVASAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state— 2–45 p.m.

(*a*) whether a Special Officer was appointed by the Government to enquire into the representations made by Dr. Venkappa and others regarding alleged irregularities in the conduct of election to the Madras Medical Council held in 1946;

(*b*) the expenses incurred by the Government by the appointment of the Special Officer and his staff, office equipment, etc.;

(*c*) whether the report of the Special Officer was received by the Government; and

(*d*) if so, whether that report will be placed on the table of the House?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" (*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

" (*b*) Rs. 2,255–8–0.

" (*c*) The answer is in the affirmative.

" (*d*) The report is confidential and it is not desirable in public interest to disclose it."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know whether action will be taken on the report of the Special Officer? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Yes, certainly, Sir."